

*AB* (Amended) Figure 7B illustrates an exploded view of the association of test strip engagement element 32 with a test strip stack. As shown, the distal end of the test strip engagement element 32 includes a handle 34 attached to a connecting means or rod or plate mid section 33. The proximal end 35 of the test strip engagement element 32 includes at least one test strip grasping means, herein shown as two ledges or arms 36, where such grasping means are configured to grasp or engage edge E of an end or top most test strip 14' from a plurality or stack of test strips 14 and slideably move test strip 14' away or distally from the stack 14 so it can be easily grasped by an individual. As described above, test strip stack 14 may further be associated with an urging means 12, herein shown as a spring element 12, and a substantially planar, rigid plate 39 for maintaining the test strips together in a suitable orientation.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~1-96~~ without prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

*1A4* 97. (New) A device for storing test strips and dispensing a single test strip at a time, said device comprising:

a housing comprising:

(a) a cover; and

(b) a base configured to store a plurality of test strips, wherein the height of said base is less than the length of each of the test strips, such that a portion of each of the test strips stored in said base extends beyond the height of said base, wherein said base and said cover are mateable to provide a sealed housing.

98. (New) The device according to claim 97, wherein said height of said base is at least about two thirds of the length of each of the test strips.

99. (New) The device according to claim 97, wherein said base further comprises an urging element for applying a force to the stored test strips.